



## GEORGIA - BELGIUM COUNTRY CONNECTION

### Government and Commerce

The Consulate General of the Kingdom of Belgium in Atlanta is the official representation of the Belgian government to the southeastern United States. In addition to performing consular services, the office also promotes economic development, trade, investment, tourism, academic, and cultural relationships between Belgium and the southeastern United States. Belgium first established a consular presence in Georgia in 1834. Ms. Katherine Raeymaekers has served as Consul General since August 2024.

Atlanta is home to two Belgian regional trade representatives. Conny Van Wulpen serves as Trade and Investment Commissioner at Flanders Investment and Trade and Djazia Filoso serves as Trade and Investment Representative at Wallonia Trade Office.

Georgia has two sister-city agreements with Belgium: Atlanta-Brussels and Dalton-Dilbeek.

The Belgian American Chamber of the South is located in Atlanta and actively supports, promotes and enhances business between Belgium and the Southeast U.S. Michel Chen serves as Executive Director.

The State of Georgia has had continuous representation in Europe since 1973. Since that time, the office has assisted hundreds of European firms with locating in Georgia and Georgia companies exporting to Europe.

Former Governor Deal visited Belgium in 2013.

### Academics

In the Fall semester of 2024, 24 Belgian students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers at least 12 study abroad programs to Belgium in international affairs, international business, modern languages, and art.

The Georgia Institute of Technology partners with the Center for European and Transatlantic Studies to offer a summer faculty-led study abroad in Brussels.

### Arts, Culture and Tourism

In 2023, 4,800 Belgian visitors spent \$5.9 million in the state of Georgia.

Rome, Georgia's 2016 International Film Festival awarded Best Foreign Narrative Feature to the Belgian film *Jacques a vu* directed by Xavier Diskeuve.

In August 2022, the Museum of Arts and Sciences hosted an international full dome film festival featuring multimedia artwork and artistic experiences from 14 countries, including Belgium.

### International Trade

**EXPORTS:** In 2023, Georgia exports to Belgium totaled \$1.5 billion. Belgium is the seventh largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Belgium include turbojets, medical instruments, heterocyclic compounds, pharmaceutical bandages, and automatic processing machines.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Belgium: gas turbines and pharmaceutical bandages.

**IMPORTS:** In 2023, Georgia imports from Belgium totaled \$2.4 billion. Belgium ranks 17th among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Belgium to Georgia include immunological products, television receivers, diphosphorus pentaoxide, and motor vehicles.

### Investment

More than **25** Georgia companies with operations in Belgium, including but not limited to:

- AJC International
- Crawford & Company
- Georgia-Pacific
- Halyard Health
- NCR Corporation
- UPS
- WestRock
- Zep

At least **50 Belgian** companies support jobs for over **4,400 Georgians**. Examples of significant Belgian investment in Georgia include Anheuser Busch Inc. located in Bartow County, and UCB, a global pharmaceutical company with U.S. headquarters in Atlanta.

### Transportation

Delta Air Lines provides daily one-stop flights from Atlanta to Brussels via New York. Scandinavian Airlines provides daily one-stop flights from Atlanta to Brussels via Copenhagen, Denmark.

There are five international cargo flights each week between Liege, Belgium, and Atlanta.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with Belgium. The Port of Savannah offers direct weekly container ship service to the ports of Antwerp and Zeebrugge. The Port of Brunswick also offers direct service for Roll-on/Roll-off cargo to Belgium.

### About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) plans, manages and mobilizes state resources to attract new business investment to Georgia, drive the expansion of existing industry and small business, locate new markets for Georgia products, inspire tourists to visit Georgia and promote the state as a top destination for arts events and film, music and digital entertainment projects. For more information, visit [www.georgia.org](http://www.georgia.org).

### GDEcD's International Representatives in Europe

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